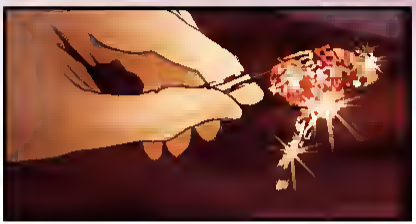
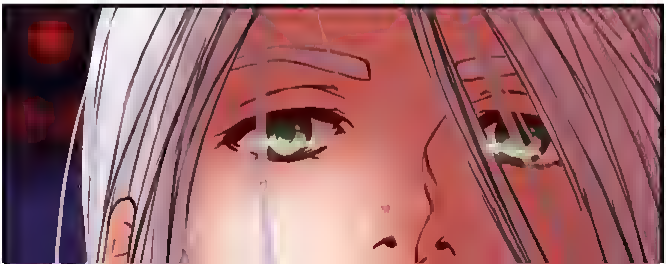
Please have your sound on for this chapter

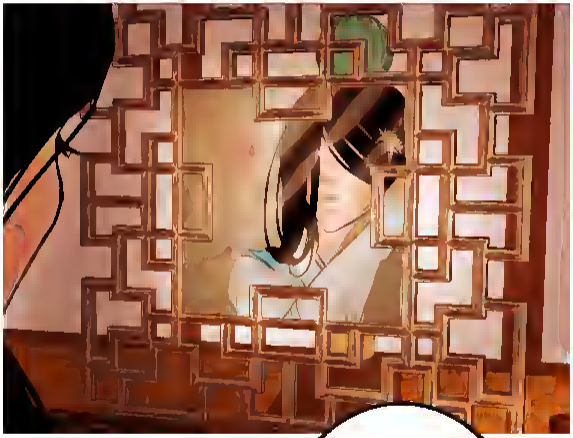
I HAVE MY OWN INTERESTS IN COMING HERE TONIGHT.



OH?

LIKE WHAT, YUUTA?



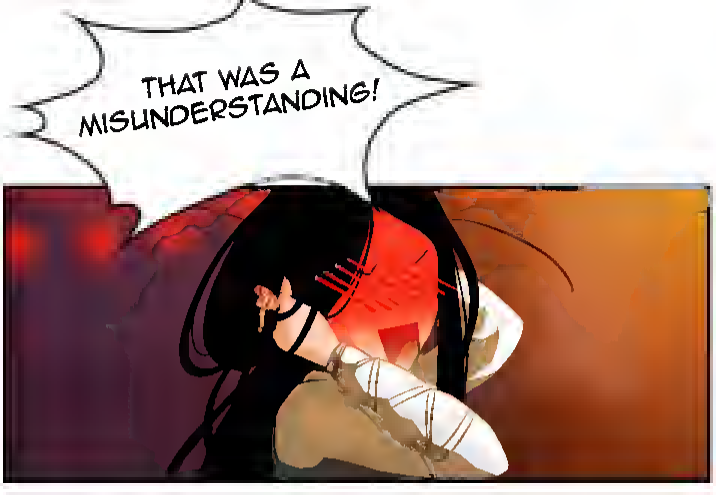


...TO SPEND MY EVENING IN YOUR COMPANY.

...

HM...
AN INTERESTING
REACTION.

BOLD ENOUGH TO PROPOSITION THE KING,
YET EASILY FLUSTERED BY ANY MAN'S SUAVE WORDS.



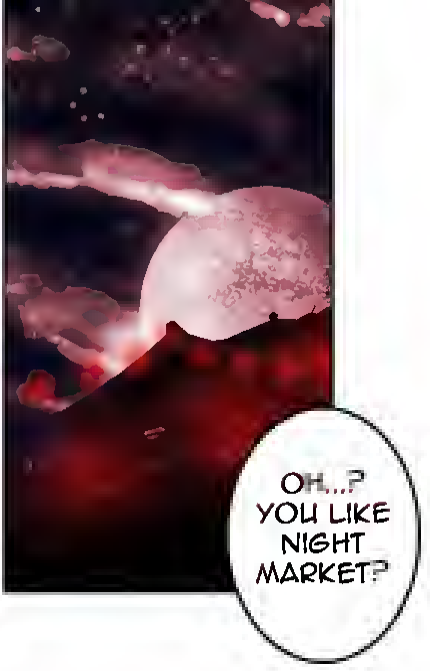
....AND I'M NOT EASILY FLUSTERED BY ANYTHING YOU SAY...

YOU'RE AS RED AS SCARLET.
ARE YOU WEAK TO SMOOTH WORDS?

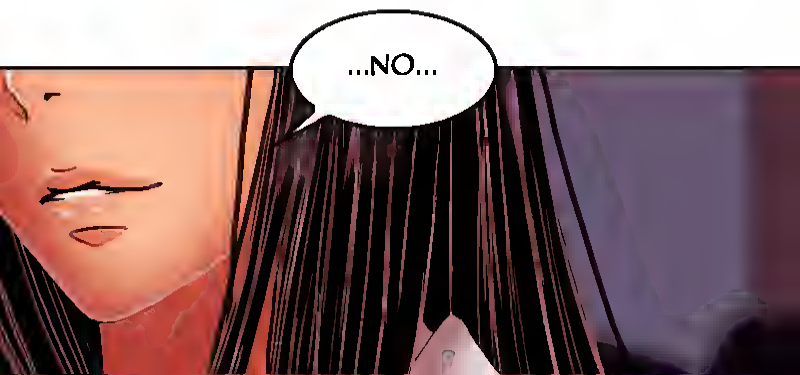
THE... THE RED LANTERNS...
THEY'RE CASTING A TINT OVER MY CHEEKS. DON'T FLATTER YOURSELF.

...I JEST.

I CAME TO TOWN BECAUSE I WANTED TO ENJOY THE NIGHT MARKET.


OH...?
YOU LIKE
NIGHT
MARKET?

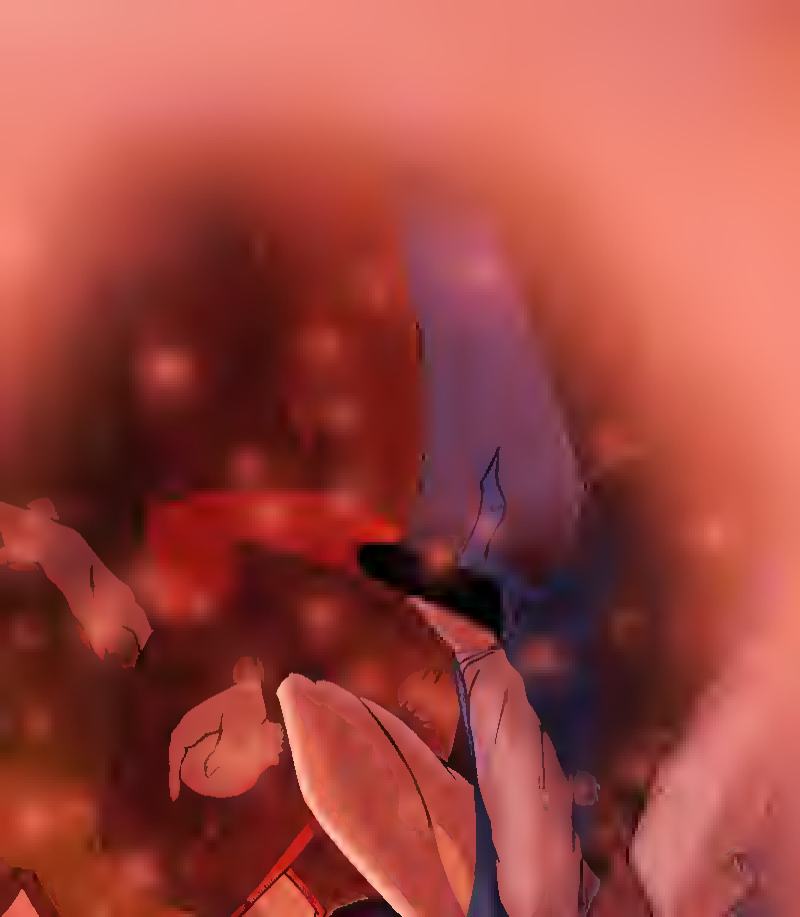
IS THAT SO SURPRISING ?



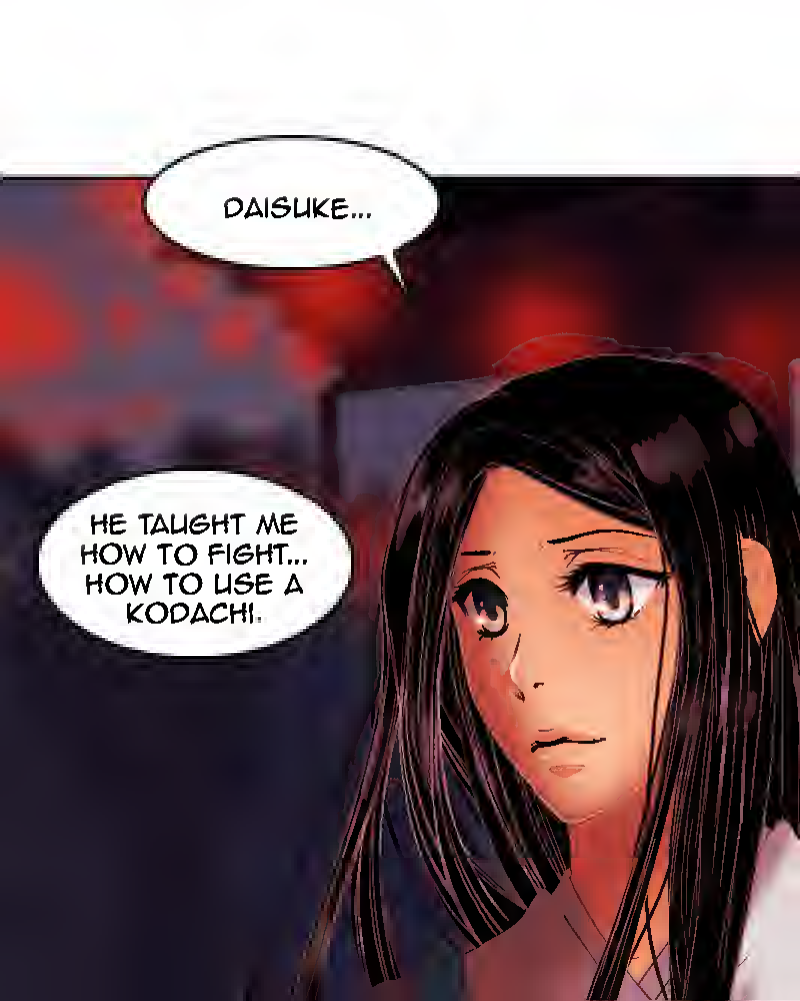
I SUPPOSE NOT.
IT'S PLEASANT FOR ANYONE, I THINK

I HAVE GOOD MEMORIES HERE OVER THE YEARS.

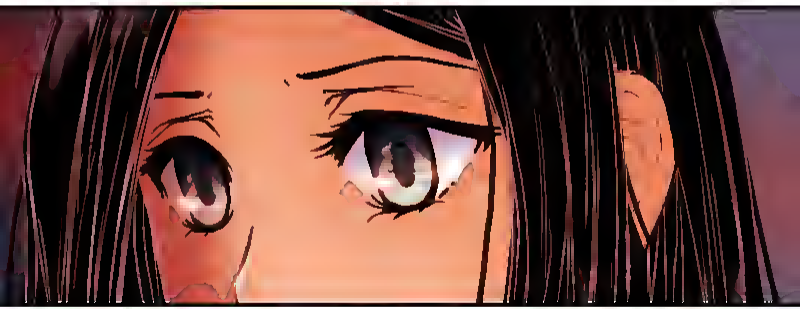
ESPECIALLY FOND MEMORIES WITH MY OLDER BROTHER BEFORE THE WAR.



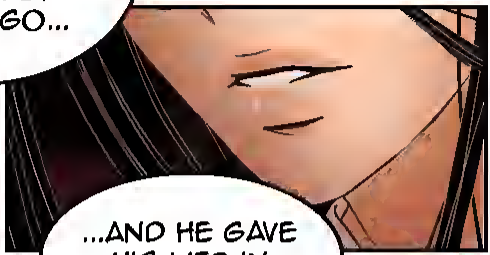
YOU HAVE ANOTHER BROTHER?
...I DID...


DAISUKE...
HE TAUGHT ME HOW TO FIGHT... HOW TO USE A KODACHI.

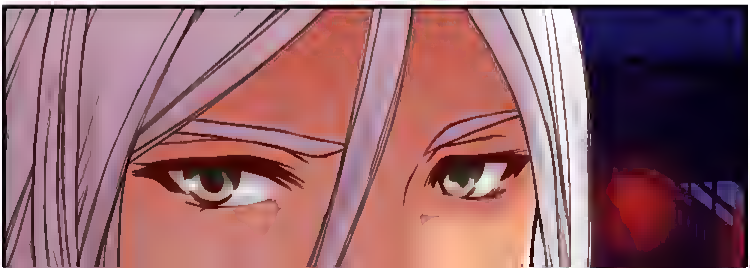
NOT THAT I'VE EVER BEEN VERY GOOD, THOUGH. LUCKILY, MY FATHER HELPED TRAIN ME AS BEST AS HE COULD AFTER...
...AFTER...

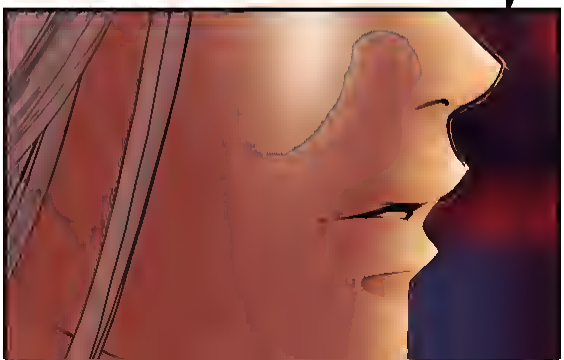


...DAISUKE SERVED IN THE BLOOD KING'S ARMY A FEW YEARS AGO...

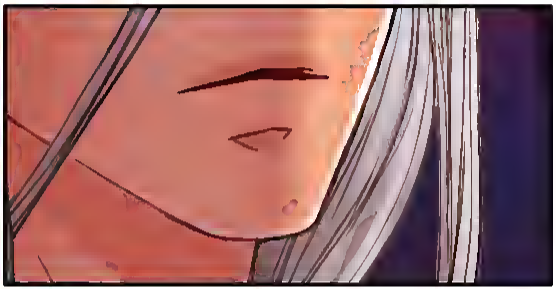


...AND HE GAVE HIS LIFE IN BATTLE.

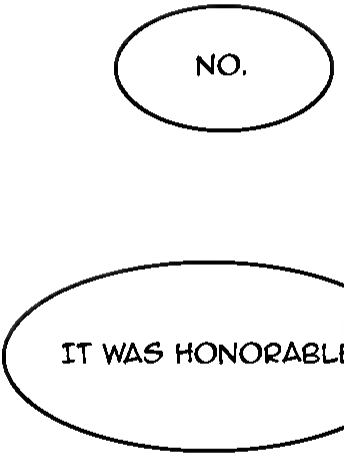


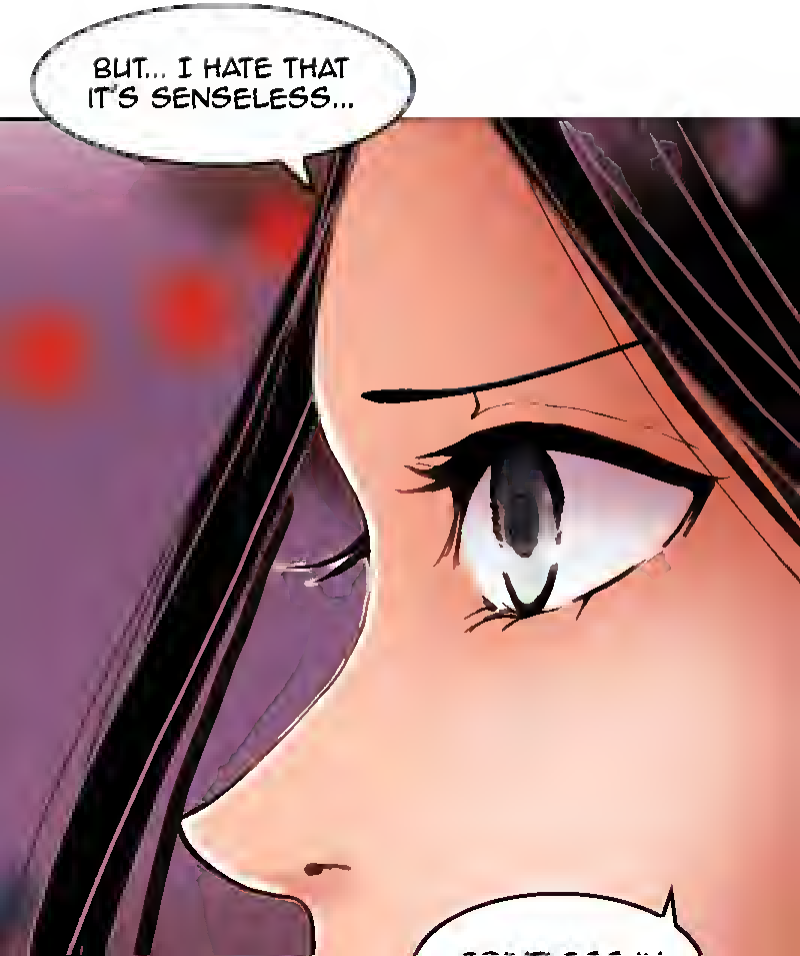

I'M SORRY TO HEAR THAT...

I...
...I HATE WAR.



...DO YOU BLAME YOUR BROTHER FOR FIGHTING AND DYING FOR THIS COUNTRY?


NO.
IT WAS HONORABLE.


BUT... I HATE THAT
IT'S SENSELESS...

POINTLESS IN THE END...

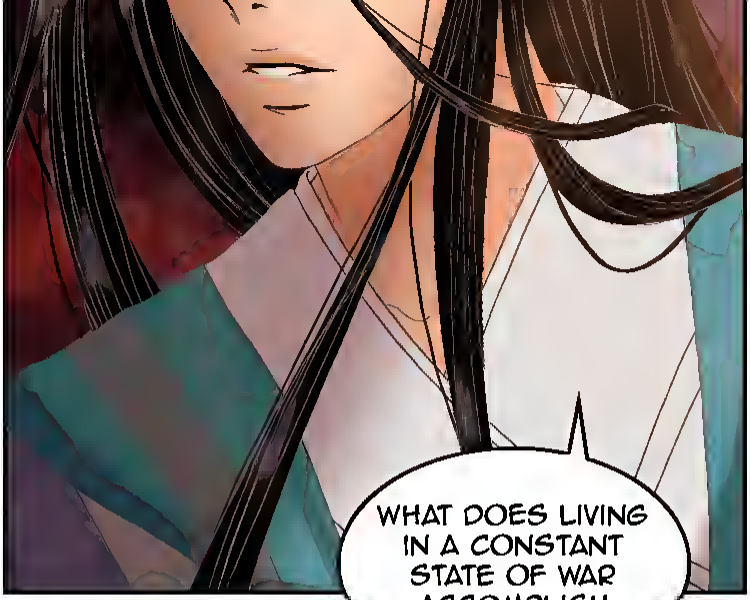
YOU BELIEVE WAR IS POINTLESS?

...NO... NOT EXACTLY THAT...
...I JUST FEEL LIKE MAYBE THERE'S A BETTER WAY TO ACHIEVE PEACE THAN THROUGH SO MUCH BLOODSHED AND SO MUCH PAIN.

THAT'S QUITE IDEALISTIC OF YOU. A WORLD WHOSE PROBLEMS ARE SOLVED WITHOUT WAR.

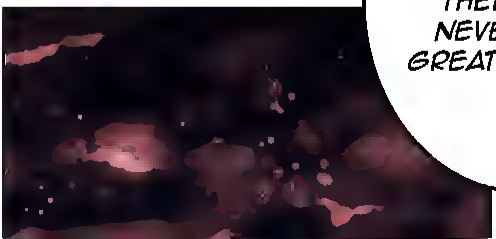
A BIT TOO WISHFUL, DON'T YOU THINK?

NO... NOT TOO WISHFUL.



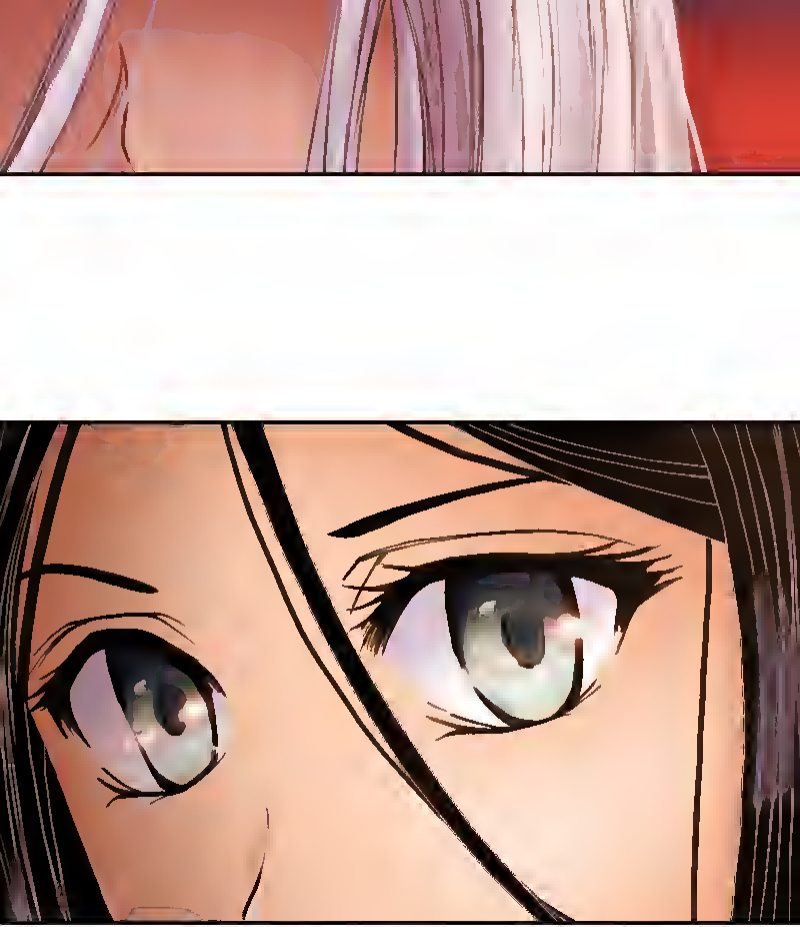
IT ACCOMPLISHES THE SMALLEST FRAGMENT OF

THE PEACE YOU AND THESE PEOPLE HOLD TO SO DEARLY.

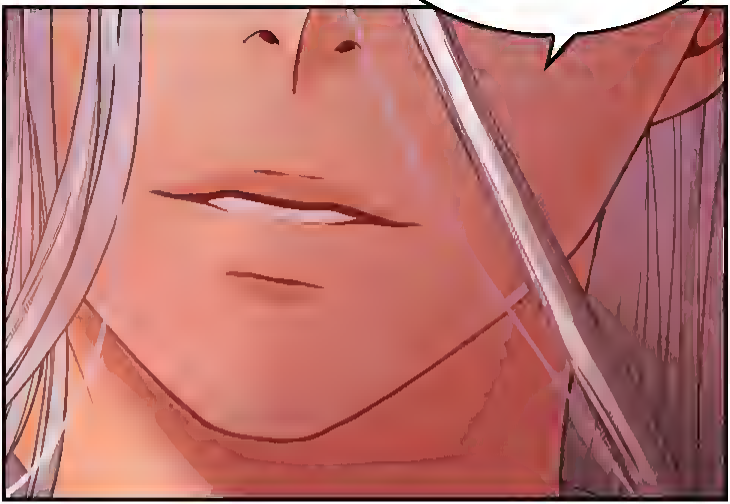


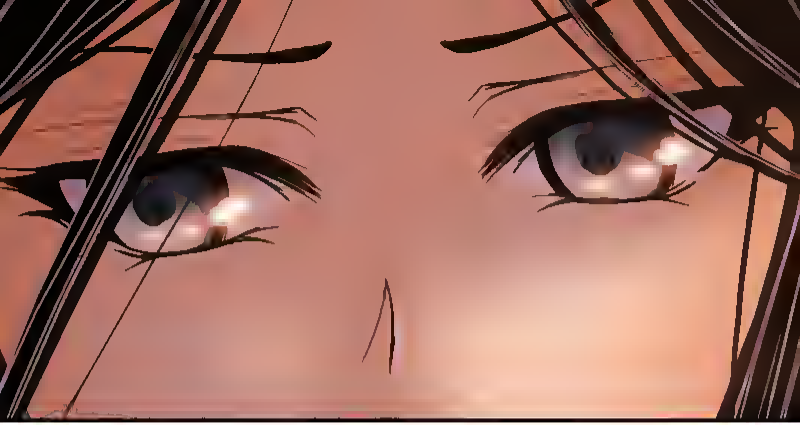
WITHOUT GREAT SACRIFICE, THERE CAN NEVER BE A GREAT REWARD.

PEOPLE DON'T STOP KILLING OTHERS BECAUSE YOU ASK THEM NICELY.



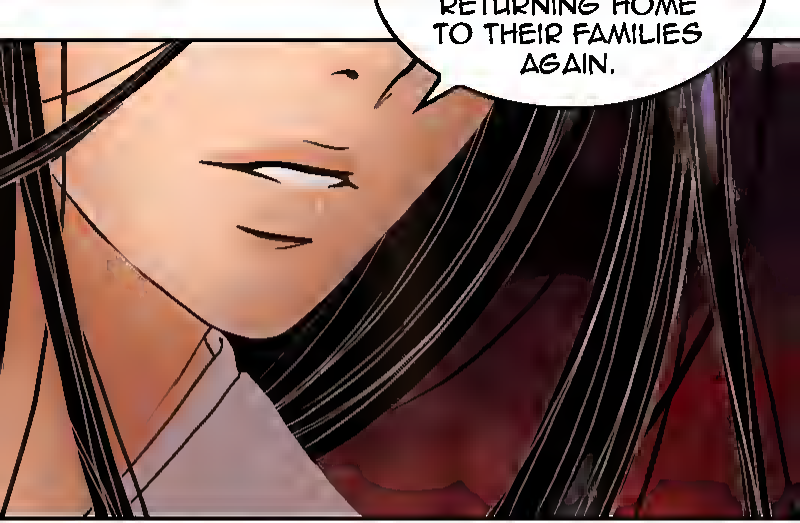
ARE YOU TELLING ME IT'S A NECESSARY EVIL, THEN?
KILL THE ENEMY BEFORE THEY KILL US?
DON'T YOU ALSO STRIKE FIRST BEFORE YOUR ENEMY CAN?



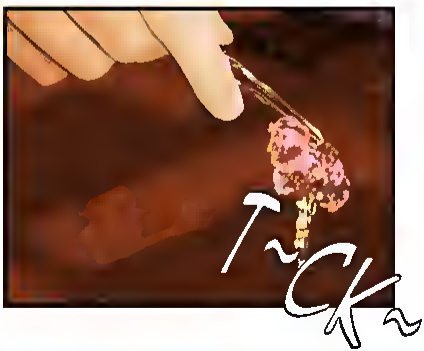


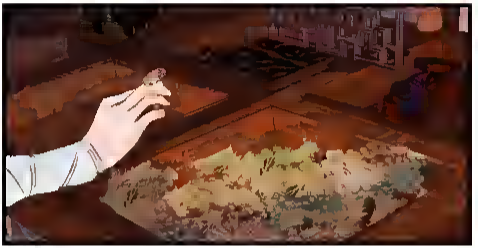
...WELL...
EVEN SO...

IT WOULD BE BEST
IF THERE COULD BE
MORE SOLDIERS


RETURNING HOME
TO THEIR FAMILIES
AGAIN.

...I'LL MAKE NOTE OF THAT.


T~Ck~

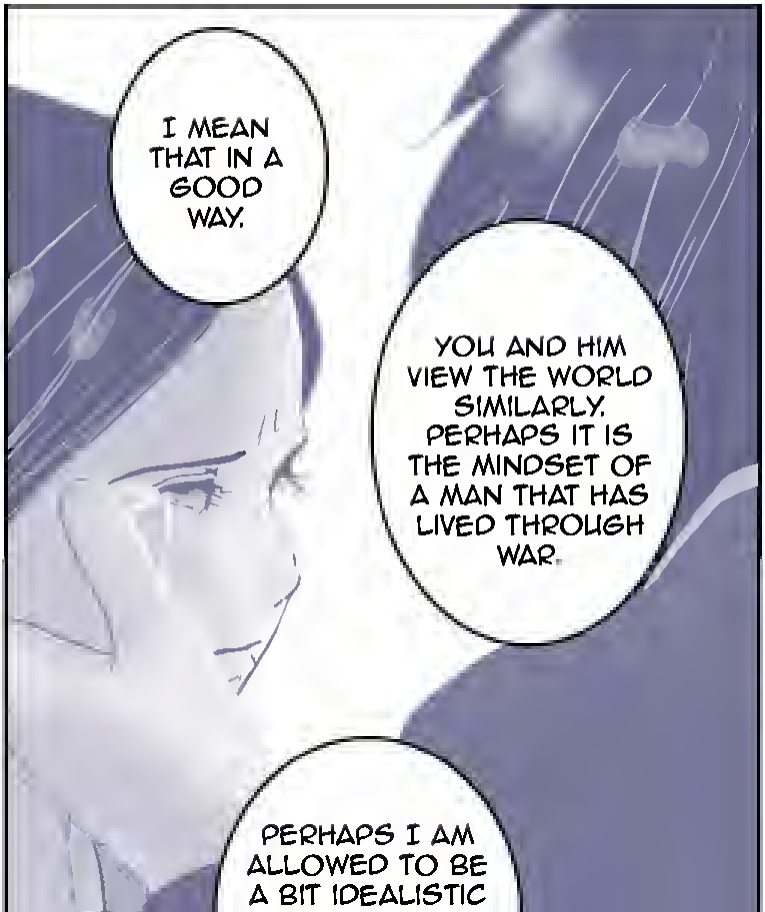


I HOPE I HAVEN'T SPOILED YOUR EVENING

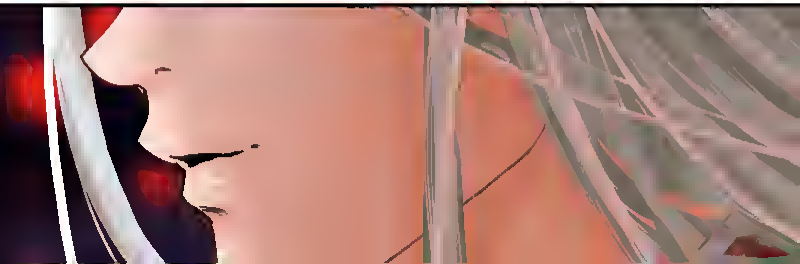
WITH TALK OF WAR.

YOU REMINDED ME OF HIM, IN SOME WAYS...

YOUR WAY OF THINKING, I MEAN... IT'S SIMILAR TO DAISUKE'S BELIEFS.

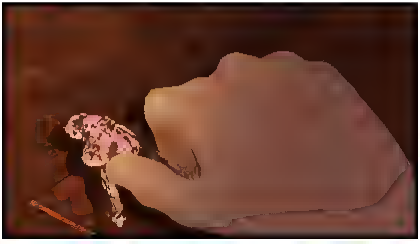

I MEAN THAT IN A GOOD WAY.
YOU AND HIM VIEW THE WORLD SIMILARLY. PERHAPS IT IS THE MINDSET OF A MAN THAT HAS LIVED THROUGH WAR.
PERHAPS I AM ALLOWED TO BE A BIT IDEALISTIC

WHEN I HAVEN'T SEEN THE THINGS YOU TWO HAVE SEEN.



...ARE YOU NOT GOING TO BUY THAT HAIR ORNAMENT AFTER ALL?

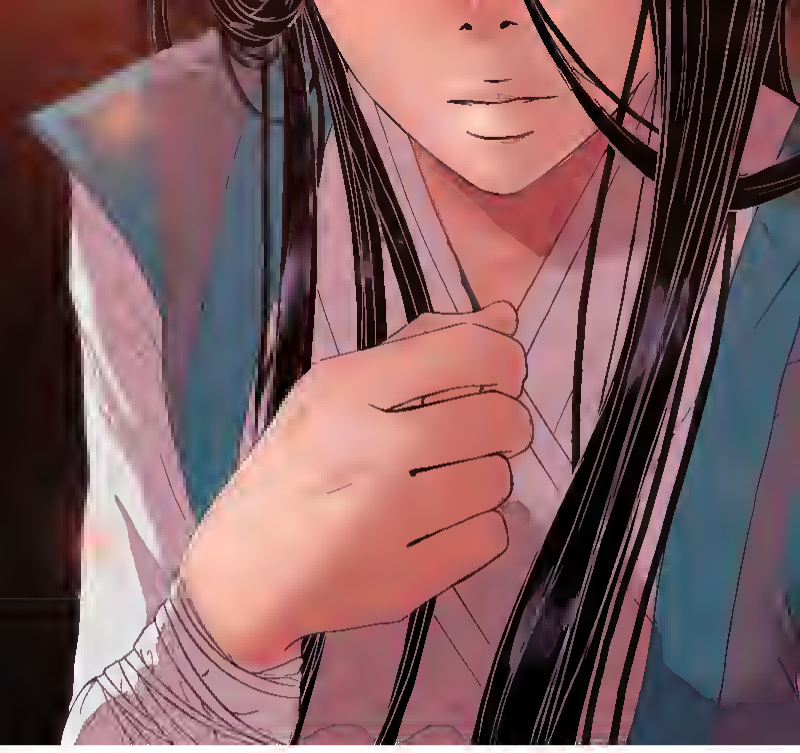
NO...
IT... DOESN'T
SUIT ME.



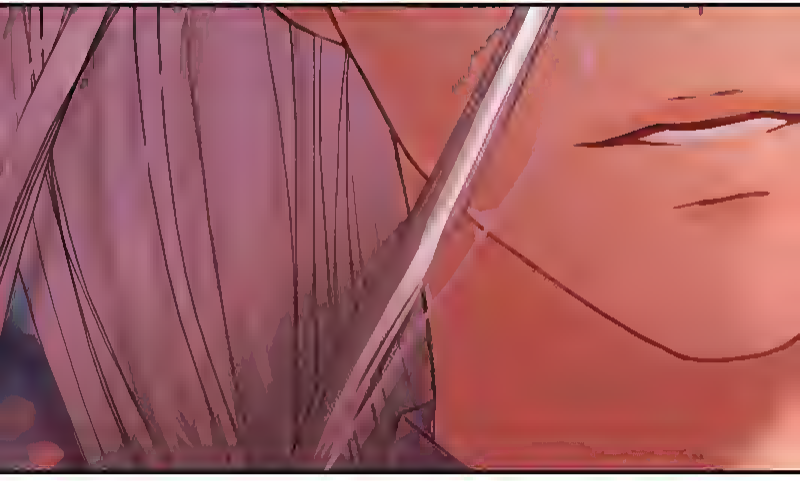
I THINK
IT DOES

SUIT
YOU,
ACTUALLY
...

YOU LOOK AS RADIANT AS A QUEEN.



* CHUCKLE *

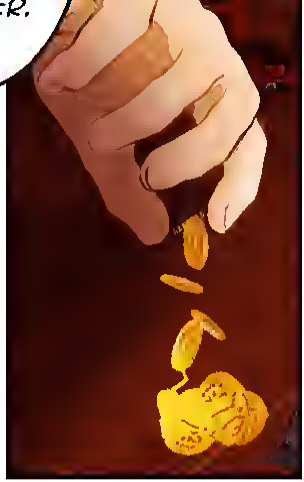


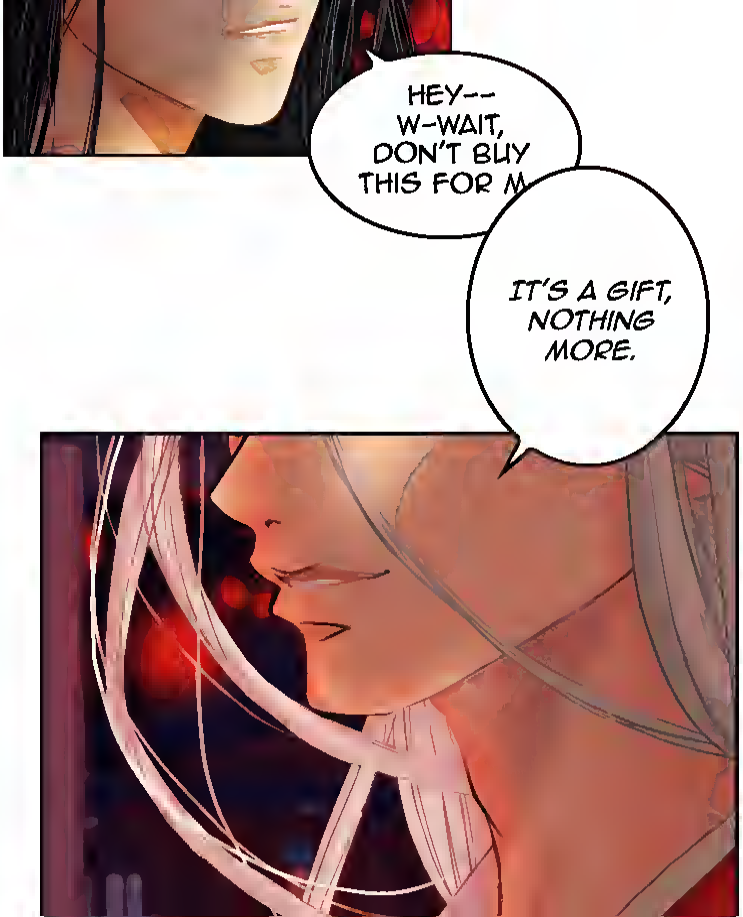
AH, THE LANTERNS ARE CASTING THAT REDDISH TINT OVER YOUR FACE AGAIN, IT WOULD SEEM.

Y-YEAH
...

THIS SHOULD COVER THE COST OF THE ORNAMENT, SHOP

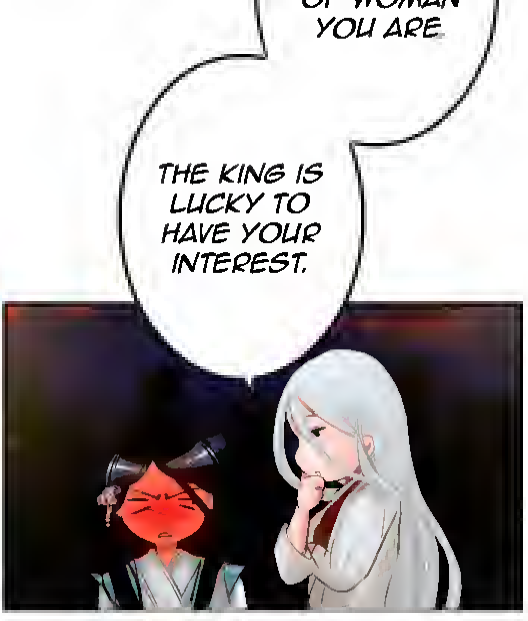
KEEPER.




HEY--
W-WAIT,
DON'T BUY
THIS FOR M
IT'S A GIFT,
NOTHING
MORE.

YOU...
SHOULDN'T...
YOU DON'T
NEED TO...

I KNOW WHAT SORT OF WOMAN


OF WOMAN YOU ARE.
THE KING IS LUCKY TO HAVE YOUR INTEREST.

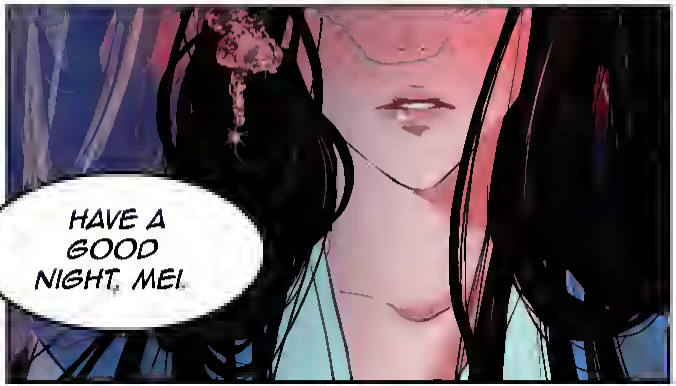
YOU KNOW FULLY WELL THAT I DIDN'T PROPOSITION HIM!
YOU'RE JUST TRYING TO

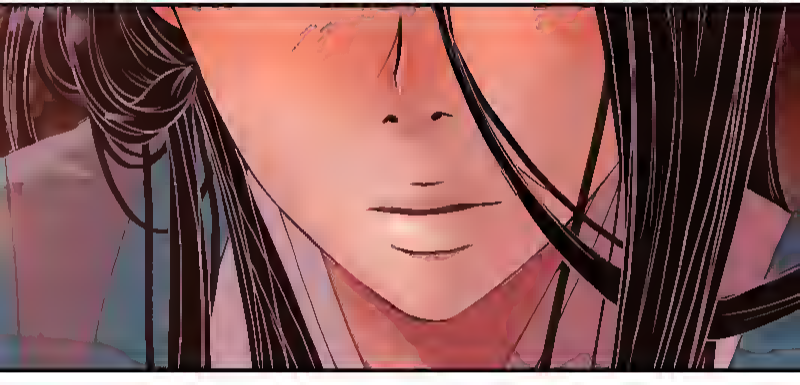
BAIT ME TO GET A RISE OUT OF ME.

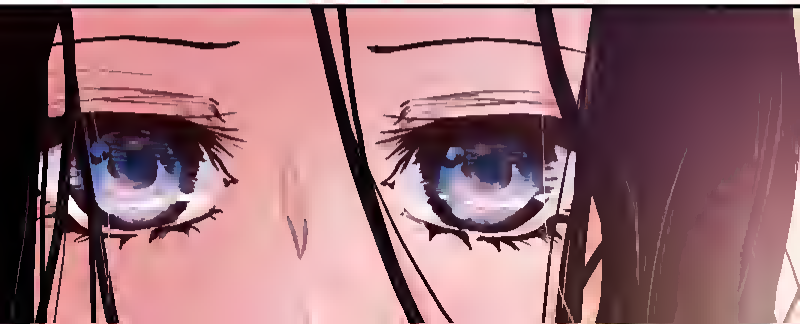
CLEVER GIRL.

I AM BAITING YOU.
BUT ONLY BECAUSE THESE EXPRESSIONS OF YOURS ARE SO IRRESITABLE.

I WANT TO SEE MORE OF THEM.







THE LIEUTENANT?!

...WHATCHA'
HIDIN'?

@LIFELIGHTCOMICS

@LIFELIGHT_COMICS

NAME OF THE SONG·

TRACK 5
<Night Market>

Background music by

@KennyComics